

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 NSCE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 DHA-05

SP-02 TRSE-00 PM-05 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 EB-08 INRE-00 /058 W

-----072822 030102Z /64

O 022343Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6491

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 7633

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP

SUBJECT: PERUVIAN BILATERAL

REF: STATE 210605

1. IN HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER, MORALES BERMUDEZ WILL BE PREOCCUPIED WITH TRYING TO EXPLAIN PERU'S FINANCIAL CRISIS, ITS CAUSES AND EFFECTS. HE TENDS TO GO ON AT SOME LENGTH AND IN A METHODICAL, PLODDING FASHION WHEN HE GETS ON THIS SUBJECT. I HAVE SUGGESTED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER THAT HIS CHIEF'S LETTER OF AUGUST 27 TO PRESIDENT CARTER COVERS MUCH OF THIS BACKGROUND QUITE COMPREHENSIVELY AND THAT REFERENCE TO IT RATHER THAN REPETITION OF THE POINTS ALREADY MADE WOULD PROBABLY BE SUFFICIENT. AN INDICATION EARLY ON BY OUR PRESIDENT THAT HE IS AWARE OF THE CONTENTS WOULD PERHAPS BE HELPFUL IN MOVING THE CONVERSATION TOWARD MORE SPONTANEOUS INTERCHANGE.

2. THE PERUVIANS WILL, OF COURSE, BE LOOKING FOR EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING FROM OUR SIDE. I HAVE PREVIOUSLY EXPLAINED AT SOME LENGTH MY CONVICTION THAT THE ADMINISTRATION'S PRIORITIES IN LATIN AMERICA CALL FOR AS FORTHCOMING A RESPONSE AS WE CAN MAKE TO THE GOP'S APPEALS FOR HELP IN PERU'S CURRENT FINANCIAL

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TROUBLES. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT MORALES BERMUDEZ SEES HIS POLITICAL PROGRAM AS COINCIDING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER'S CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIZATION IN THE HEMISPHERE. IN THAT CONNECTION, THE FOREIGN MINISTER NOTED TO ME IN THE WAKE OF YESTERDAY'S VISIT BY THE PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER THAT THE USG HAD BEEN OF GREAT ASSISTANCE IN THAT COUNTRY'S RETURN TO DEMOCRACY --

INCLUDING DIRECT ASSISTANCE FROM THE US TREASURY.

3. OUR MAJOR BILATERAL CONCERN IS WITH PERU'S MILITARY BUILDUP AND WITH ITS EFFECT ON REGIONAL STABILITY. I AM PROVIDING SOME VIEWS SEPARATELY ON HOW THAT SUBJECT MIGHT BE HANDLED. OTHER BILATERAL ISSUES SEEM TO HAVE PROGRESSED SATISFACTORILY IN RECENT MONTHS:

THE GULF EXPROPRIATION CASE HAS BEEN SETTLED;

THE GOP INTENDS TO PROMULGATE NEW NARCOTICS LEGISLATION SHORTLY. THIS COULD HELP IN THE INTERDICTION EFFORT.

MORALES BERMUDEZ HAS LIFTED THE STATE OF EMERGENCY, A SOURCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERN. (IT MAY BE WORTH NOTING THAT HE DID SO THE DAY AFTER ACCEPTING THE INVITATION TO GO TO WASHINGTON.);

THE GOP SEEMS TO BE TRYING TO COOPERATE ON THE US PRISONER PROBLEM, AS MUCH AS THE COUNTRY'S CREAKY BUREAUCRACY AND LEGAL SYSTEM WILL ALLOW;

THE GOP HAS BEEN HIGHLY ENCOURAGED BY THE ADVENT OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION AND, IN MY JUDGMENT, SEES THE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER AS THE OPPORTUNITY TO
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SOLIDIFY THE NEW RELATIONSHIP LAUNCHED BY MRS. CARTER'S VISIT HERE.
SHLAUDEMAM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHIEFS OF STATE MEETINGS, BRIEFING MATERIALS
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Copy: SINGLE
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LIMA07633
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770319-0495
Format: TEL
From: LIMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197709103/aaaadjas.tel
Line Count: 97
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 005d8739-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 210605
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1072445
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PERUVIAN BILATERAL
TAGS: PDIP, PE, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/005d8739-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009